

# John J. Day

Indiana State Representative, District 100



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Spring, 2004

Dear Friend,

The recently concluded legislative session reminds me of a sentence often expressed by baseball fans—especially those who follow the Cubs. The sentence "wait' til next year" is part frustration and part hope that things will improve. Many of us were frustrated that more was not achieved.

We did not address the state's very serious fiscal situation, enact a voluntary full day kindergarten program, or increase the state minimum wage. Several studies tell us that youngsters at age 5 and even younger are eager to learn and we owe them this expanded opportunity.

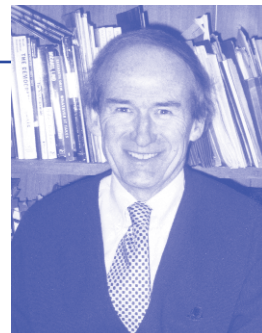
The news is certainly not all negative and there were some encouraging new laws enacted. Perhaps the best new law is HB 1229, which protects homeowners—especially the elderly—from deceptive, predatory lending practices. The booster seat bill will result in increased auto safety for our young children. Two modest economic development bills to encourage jobs and business start-ups were also enacted.

Let me review these bills for you plus HB1660 to benefit senior citizens and the minimum wage bill. In the Good News Department there is a great story about the talented show choir at Tech High School called the "Technicians." Details inside.

Let me conclude with an inspiring thought from Bill Bradley on what politics can be, **"a politics that's about lifting people up, not tearing down your opponent; a politics that reflects the best in what is in us as Americans and not the worst; a politics that inspires us to live up to our potential as citizens and human beings."**

All the best,

John J. Day



# Day supports Homeowner Protection Act

Representative Jeb Bardon (D-Indianapolis) successfully guided House Bill 1229 into law, effective January 1, 2005, that will provide needed reform in home loan transactions. Deceptive loan practices are more clearly defined and prohibited. It stops the practice of requiring the borrower to have various insurance plans within the loan contract. The new law also will make illegal the practice of inflating home appraisals which of course increases the cost of the loan.

The overall goal is that homeowners will be protected from overpriced loans with unreasonable terms that often are impossible to pay back, placing people at risk of losing their homes.



## Legislation enacted to protect the elderly



HB 1660 was actually enacted in 2003 but vetoed for financial reasons, then re-enacted in January 2004. The purpose of the new law is to streamline the investigation process in abuse/neglect cases of the elderly in nursing homes and to increase the penalties for failure to report abuse. It also increases the penalty for actual abuse/neglect of

an endangered adult.

With the new law Adult Protective Services no longer needs a referral from the Health Department before starting an investigation at a nursing home. Also, under the old law failure to report suspected abuse/neglect only resulted in a small fine. This part of the law was seldom enforced. Now the penalty is either six months in jail or a \$1,000 fine or both.

I am grateful to the United Senior Action Organization and the Prosecutor's Council for their help with the bill and to Sen. Connie Lawson (R-Danville) the Senate sponsor.

## Minimum Wage Increases Stalled

Indiana and 42 other states have minimum wage laws to cover those workers not protected by the federal minimum wage. As you may recall Indiana increased the minimum to \$5.15 in 1998 making it equal to the federal rate.

Twelve states including Illinois have increased the minimum wage to \$6.15 or higher. I introduced HB 1022 this past session to raise our rate to \$6.15. The House approved it with a 55-42 vote but the bill was stalled in the Senate.

I believe it is important to encourage our lowest paid workers especially those with families. If the voters of our district permit me to serve another term, the minimum wage increase will be the first bill I introduce for the 2005 session.

# The Good News Department

## Tech show choir worth more than just a listen



### The Technicians show choir of Arsenal Technical High School

Having seen them perform four times I want to tell you about a terrific group of young people in our district. The Technicians, the 32 member show choir at Tech High School, have appeared at churches, with civic groups and at schools. They have sung at the State Museum, make an annual appearance at the Veterans Center and in November 2002 sang at the Circle of Lights Program on Monument Circle.

These talented and hard working students represent their school very well. With their enthusiasm and coordinated efforts they have brought wholesome entertainment to many people and enriched all who have seen them.

The dedicated director of the group, Ms. Cindy Hartshorn, who is also the head of the Music Department (since 1989), is quick to give credit and praise to the students and Ms. Gisele Dollinger, their accompanist. She went on to say that over the past 10 years an estimated 80% of the choir members have gone on to college.

These gifted young people with their talent, energy, good citizenship and positive outlook give all of us hope for the future.

## Scecina High School celebrates 50th Anniversary

During the 2003-2004 school year Scecina Memorial is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Let me add my voice to the many others expressing best wishes to the students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of Scecina on this milestone of service to the people of the east side.

Scecina has offered a quality education and provided a solid foundation for thousands of young people over the years. Graduates of the school have excelled in a variety of career choices including business, the professions, service to the church and to the community.



# Additional bills to promote job creation, child safety

## Economic Development Initiatives

House Enrolled Act 1434 will hopefully encourage low income businesses with economic development opportunities by providing grants for training and other assistance. This program will focus on small/new businesses with fewer than five employees.

House Enrolled Act 1365 makes Indiana's research and development tax credit permanent. Many believe this incentive, especially for companies engaged in the life sciences, will stimulate expansion and create more jobs for Indiana workers.

Not necessarily this year, but in the years to come these two modest bills could pay big dividends for the people of Indiana.

## Indiana's New Booster Seat Law

House Enrolled Act 1098 strengthens our existing child safety law. The current law requires children under age four to be in a child restraint system when riding in a car.

The new law requires a booster seat for kids from age four through seven, with all kids beyond age seven to be in a regular seat belt. Medical, law enforcement and traffic safety people all inform us that our kids will be safer with fewer serious injuries and fatalities as a result of the new law.



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